CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA
REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 3, 2006

CALL TO ORDER:
Mayor Lavagnino called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION:
Rev. Jim Schrotel of Unity Chapel of Light Church, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:
Councilmember Patino led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:
MEMBERS PRESENT
Councilmembers Mariscal, Orach, Patino, Trujillo, and Mayor Lavagnino.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
City Manager Ness, Assistant City Manager Haydon, City Attorney Trujillo, Police Chief Macagni, Director of Administrative Services Snodgrass, Director of Community Development Lindsey, Director of Recreation and Parks Posada, Fire Chief Ortiz, Director of Public Works Karp, Director of Utilities Chisam, City Engineer Sweet, and Chief Deputy City Clerk Perez.

RESOLUTION HONORING TRENT BENEDETTI
Councilmember Orach read Resolution No. 2006-01 commending Trent Benedetti for his many years of devoted service to the City as a member of the Planning Commission.

Resolution No. 2006-01 was adopted on motion by Councilmember Orach, seconded by Councilmember Mariscal, and carried on the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Mariscal, Orach, Patino, Trujillo, and Mayor Lavagnino
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Resolution No. 2006-01 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA COMMENDING SANTA MARIA PLANNING COMMISSIONER TRENT BENEDETTI FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA.

Councilmember Orach presented the resolution to Trent Benedetti.

Trent Benedetti thanked the Council and recognized all the Mayors, Councilmembers, Planning Commissioners, and staff members he had worked with during his tenure on the Planning Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There were no public comments at this time.

Mayor Lavagnino asked staff to give a brief overview of how Santa Maria fared over the weekend of storms.

City Manager Ness explained it was an uneventful weekend. The City received nearly 5 inches of rain in the 24 hour period ending at 8:00 a.m. on Monday. No streets or roads were closed due to flooding. From the Recreation and Parks Department there were 60 fallen tree limb calls and 13 trees that actually fell. The Fire Department received six calls for downed wires, seven calls for alarms ringing mostly due to power failures, one report of a natural gas leak, and four injury traffic collisions. The Police Department reported that it was standard operating procedure with nothing out of the ordinary. The North Blosser Basin reached about 99 percent of capacity. River Oaks Pond was full

and spilling into the overflow area. The new drainage piping installed under Depot and Sonya Streets worked very well. Typically, that was the City's biggest flooding problem area, and there was no flooding reported.

Director of Utilities Chisam explained that the average rainfall in Santa Maria was 13 inches. Over the weekend, Santa Maria received almost 5 inches. Not too long ago that much rain would have caused havoc in the City. Since 1990, the Council has instituted a plan of incremental improvements to the storm drainage system. It started with the Green Canyon Channel area where new drainage basins were added upstream with additional piping facilities. The Flood Control District recently constructed a new pipeline down West Main Street to take the Covar Drainage Basin water away from Stowell Road. It also allowed the City to place a new culvert underneath the railroad tracks near Sonya and Depot to ensure that area drains properly. The Flood Control System is a system that is interlocking with each piece having its own components. Over the years the City Council has committed to enhancing all the pieces. There were no street closures, no calls for service, and no flooding of private properties.

Councilmember Orach asked about the levees and the impact of the storm on the levees.

Director Chisam responded that the levees held up very well. It is early in the season and Twitchell Reservoir is essentially empty, so it held a lot of water with no spilling. Because of that the flows in the Santa Maria River were relatively low. The City and the Flood Control District are continuously patrolling the levee to ensure there are no breaches and action could be taken immediately at the first sign of any difficulty with the levee system.

Councilmember Mariscal asked the citizens of Santa Maria for its indulgence in allowing the drainage basins, which double as City parks, to dry out.

Director of Recreation and Parks explained that the soccer programs are very cooperative and know to stay off the fields after a storm. Everything should be back on track this weekend. A few years ago the City began a preventative street tree maintenance program which has helped reduce the number of tree-related incidents.

Councilmember Trujillo asked if there was a plan to improve the levee near Blosser Road.

Director Chisam explained that the Public Works Department and Flood Control District were working on a project to look at the levee and develop short-term and long-term criteria for improving the levee system and enhancing the protection the levee system provides to the City.

CONSENT CALENDAR
Consent Calendar Items A through K were approved with the indicated action on motion by Councilmember Orach, seconded by Councilmember Trujillo, and carried on the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Mariscal, Orach, Patino, Trujillo, and Mayor Lavagnino
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

A. ORDINANCES
The reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions was waived. Ordinances on the Consent Calendar are adopted by the same vote cast at the first reading unless City Council indicates otherwise.

B. MINUTES
The Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of December 20, 2005, were approved as submitted.

C. AMENDMENT TO MOU FOR SMPOA
Resolution No. 2006-02 was adopted approving amendments to and an extension of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Santa Maria Police Officers' Association (SMPOA).

Resolution No. 2006-02 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO AND AN EXTENSION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SANTA MARIA POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (SMPOA).

D. WAGE AND BENEFIT PACKAGE
Resolution No. 2006-03 was adopted approving a wage and benefit package for the non-represented full-time management and confidential employees.

Resolution No. 2006-03 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A WAGE AND BENEFIT PACKAGE FOR THE NON-REPRESENTED FULL-TIME MANAGEMENT AND CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES.

E. WAGE AND BENEFIT PACKAGE
Resolution No. 2006-04 was adopted approving a wage and benefit package for public safety managers.

Resolution No. 2006-04 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A WAGE AND BENEFIT PACKAGE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY MANAGERS.

F. EMPLOYEE HOME LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Resolution No. 2006-05 was adopted approving the creation of a City Employee Home Loan Assistance Program.

Resolution No. 2006-05 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING STAFF TO CREATE A CITY EMPLOYEE HOME LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

G. RELEASE OF BONDS
Public improvements were accepted and release of a Faithful Performance Bond in the reduced amount of $10,000 for the construction and installation of said public improvements was authorized for Westgate Ranch 1, Tract 5754, with an order that the Contractor, Labor and Material Bond be held until June 2006 and the Guarantee and Defective Material Bond be held until January 2007.

Public improvements were accepted and release of a Faithful Performance Bond in the reduced amount of $17,000 for the installation of tree wells and pavers was authorized for Westgate Ranch 1, Tract 5754, with an order that the Contractor, Labor and Material Bond be held until June 2006.

H. WARRANTS
Warrant Nos. 124542 to 124799 in the amount of $1,652,909.53 were ordered ratified subject to having been certified as being in conformity with the budget and having been approved for payment by the Director of Administrative Services. Warrant No. 119074 was cancelled.

I. PAYROLL
Payment of payroll was ordered ratified subject to having been certified by the proper Department Heads as shown on records on file in the Administrative Services Department and having been approved for payment by the Director of Administrative Services.

J. CONTRACT WITH RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.
Resolution No. 2006-06 was adopted authorizing the Director of Community Development to enter into a contract between Rincon Consultants, Inc., and the City of

Santa Maria to provide California Environmental Quality Act documents for the Downtown Specific Plan.
Resolution No. 2006-06 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC. AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO EXECUTE SUCH AGREEMENT.

K. SURPLUS FIRE ENGINE
Resolution No. 2006-07 was adopted approving the transfer of a surplus fire engine, a 1988 E-ONE Pumper, from the Fire Department to Allan Hancock College for use in the Fire Academy Training Program.

Resolution No. 2006-07 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A SURPLUS FIRE ENGINE TO ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND BOARDS
Chief Deputy City Clerk Perez gave the staff report. The Council is asked to make three of four appointments to the All-America City Committee and one of two appointments to the Landmark Committee. Insufficient applications were received to fill all vacancies.

On motion by Councilmember Patino, seconded by Councilmember Orach, and carried unanimously, David Coelho, Michael Hayes, and Bailey Hudson were reappointed for two year terms on the All-America City Committee and Joan Walker was reappointed to serve another term on the Landmark Committee.

Mayor Lavagnino directed staff to readvertise for the remaining vacancies on the All-America City Committee and the Landmark Committee.

REPORT BY CITY MANAGER
City Manager Ness reported on items for the next regular City Council meeting on January 17, 2006, including an update to the City's ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan; a public hearing for the Tentative Tract Map for Celebration, Tract 5893; Families for the First Decade Annual Update; a proposed ordinance making annual technical amendments to the Municipal Code; revisions to the trespass ordinance; Las Flores Ranch land acquisition for the Santa Maria Landfill; and a presentation by the County on a 10-year Chronic Homeless Plan.

ORAL REPORTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS AND OFFICERS
Councilmembers Orach and Patino wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Mariscal announced that he and his wife, Marye, had celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary on January 2nd. Also, for a number of years he had represented the City of Santa Maria as a member of the Community Action Commission. On January 27th in Bulleton, the Commission would be holding its Community Action Champions Dinner to recognize five individuals. Those individuals are Rita Madden, former Executive Director of the Community Action Commission; Dr. Denny Shepard; William Cirone, County Superintendent of Schools; Mario Borgatello and MarBorg Industries; and Tom Urbanske.

Councilmember Mariscal talked about Rose Cornelius, who passed away last week. She has been active in so many things since coming to Santa Maria. She was the past president of the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Maria Valley, past president of the Economic Development Association, past president of Toastmasters, a fellow Kawanian, and a very loving lady. The Community will miss her deeply. A celebration of her life will be held on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at Calvary Chapel to be followed by a reception at the Veterans Hall.

CLOSED SESSION
The City Council recessed to a Closed Session at 7:02 p.m. for Conference with Legal Counsel regarding existing litigation pursuant to Subsection (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9 to discuss Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District v. City of Santa Maria; and Conference with Legal Counsel regarding anticipated litigation pursuant to Subsection (b) of 54956.9 of the Government Code (1 matter).

After the Closed Session, the following was announced:

Conference with Legal Counsel regarding Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District v. City of Santa Maria – Status report. No reportable action.

Conference with Legal Counsel regarding Anticipated Litigation (1 matter) – Direction to staff.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, the meeting was declared adjourned at 7:20 p.m. by order of Mayor Lavagnino.

APPROVED

January 17, 2006
Date

Chief Deputy City Clerk of the City of Santa Maria and ex officio Clerk of the City Council

ATTEST
Chief Deputy City Clerk

Mayor of the City of Santa Maria